

FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION

SHABBOS MENU

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS YISRO 5782 • ISSUE 276

‘WHO ARE YOU CALLING A HERETIC?’

Since the status of apikores (heretic) removes a person from the protection of shmiras haloshon, it's of the utmost importance that we correctly identify who qualifies for this status. How much proof do we need?

THE DILEMMA

"I wouldn't do business with that guy," your customer tells you when he sees Shaul, a manufacturer of a new line of dips and salads, leaving your store. "He's an apikores. How could you trust his kashrus?"

"What are you talking about?" you ask. "He looks perfectly fine to me."

"Well, looks aren't everything. My friend used to learn with him until one day, this guy – this Shaul – looks up from the Gemara and asks him, 'Did you ever wonder, what if these rabbis are no smarter than you or me?'"

May you now assume that Shaul is a heretic?



THE HALACHAH

You may only rely on first-hand observation.

A second-hand report may not be believed, nor may you disparage the subject of the report, even in his presence, based on this information.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon Hora 8:6*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

You did a fantastic job with the sefer you recently published, Chofetz Chaim, volume 1. It's a masterpiece.

The elucidation, footnotes, scenarios – everything together – brings crystal-clear clarity to the subject.

A.A.



Ed: Sefer Chofetz Chaim is available at cchf.global/shop; by calling our office at 845.352.3505 ext. 148; and at Jewish bookstores everywhere.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

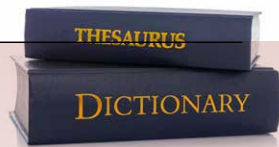
Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"Someone who
guards
his tongue is not envied,
is universally
beloved
and trusted...and no one
ever speaks ill of him."

– Sefer Shmiras HaLoshon, vol. 1,
Shaar HaZechirah, ch. 11

Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy. For discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

SPONSORED L'ILUI NISHMAS
MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y



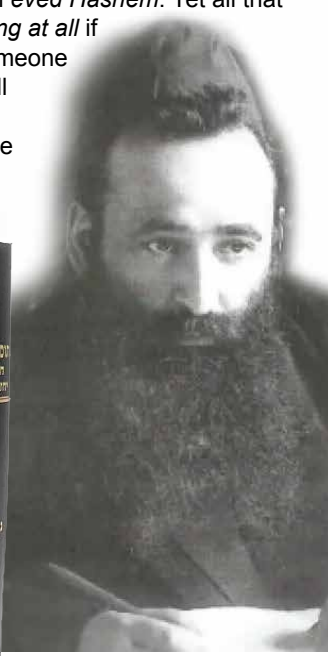
NO LAUGHING MATTER

BY RABBI YITZCHOK HISIGER

HaGaon HaRav Yechezkel Abramsky, zt"l, was in a *shul* where the *baal kriah* – the person *leining* the *parshah* from the Torah – was making mistake after mistake. Some people couldn't hide their laughter, while others smirked or raised their eyebrows. Yet Rav Abramsky stood, seriously and respectfully, following along and showing no reaction to the performance.

After *davening*, a member of the *minyán* approached him. "Please tell me, Rabbeinu, how were you able to control yourself as you did during the *leining*?"

"I remembered the Gemara (*Bava Metzia* 59a) that says, *Hamalbin pnei chaveiro b'rabim ein lo cheilek la'Olam Haba* – someone who embarrasses another person in public has no portion in the World to Come," Rav Abramsky responded. "I thought to myself: Chatzkel, Chatzkel, you may have written 24 volumes of *Chazon Yechezkel* on the *Tosefta*; you may have been involved in *harbotzas Torah* around the world; you may have been a *rav* in London, a *Rosh Yeshiva* in Eretz Yisrael, an *eved Hashem*. Yet all that will be worth *nothing at all* if you embarrass someone in public! There will be no *zeicher* of it! And you won't have a *cheilek* in Olam Haba..."



sage advice

PUT YOUR HAPPINESS INTO WORDS

Who would imagine that our vocabulary has an impact on our happiness? People often say that a culture is reflected in its language, using as an example the fact that Eskimos have about 30 words for snow. Snow is obviously a big part of their lives, and they need to pinpoint exactly what kind of snow they're talking about. It's hard to pinpoint a concept without the right word to describe it.

Charlie Harary tells of a group of social scientists who discovered that this concept applies to happiness. The scientists visited various villages in Africa and studied their language. They discovered that some had a sophisticated palette of words to describe their emotions, while others used a few black and white expressions. The scientists discovered that **the greater the range of words a particular language offered for expressing an emotion, the more its people focused on that emotion.**

This provides us with a tool for keeping our thoughts and hearts in a good place. When something is good, we can articulate in our minds every shade of good it contains. It's "exciting" and "helpful" and "kind" and "comforting" and "sweet" and "caring" and whatever words apply. We can roll it around in our minds and let it flow from our tongues. In doing so, we will make the goodness all the richer.

And when the opposite occurs? We can try to find the positive in it and minimize our focus on the negative. We can feel that something is "disappointing" without going onward to "nasty," and "thoughtless" and "arrogant" and "hurtful" and "unforgiveable" and whatever other words might be in our stockpile.

Without the help of the social scientists and African villages, the Torah long ago taught that a person should use the most refined, positive language that will do the job. The words we think and speak are the words with which we paint our picture of what is going on in our lives. For the brightest picture, we need to stock up on the brightest shades of meaning.

From a CCHF Live Life Better video

"Thinking of this *maamar Chazal*, it was obvious that whatever mistake the *baal kriah* might be making, I could not react at all."

Reprinted with permission from an article in *Yated Ne'eman*

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do other people's mistakes sometimes strike us as funny? How can we train ourselves to respond as Rav Abramsky did?

Introducing Sefer Chofetz Chaim
The Chofetz Chaim's words.
Translated phrase-by-phrase in the study flow of the Artscroll Schottenstein Shas.

- * Many Malachos clarified with real-life scenarios
- * In-depth notes

Translated and annotated by Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation. Designed and published by Artscroll.

Finally, understand Sefer Chofetz Chaim in all its richness.

Order your sefer today at cchf.global/shop
Call 845.352.3505 Ext. 148
or at Jewish bookstores everywhere

CHOFETZ CHAIM 3 HERITAGE FOUNDATION
ARTSCROLL

OUR MISSION

at the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation is to inspire Jews around the world to grasp the life-enhancing gift of *shmiras haloshon*, *ahavas Yisrael*, and *shalom*, and to provide easy access to a wide array of options designed to spark personal growth.

50,000 TB Event
attendees

© 2022 THE CHOFETZ CHAIM HERITAGE FOUNDATION

לע"ג חיים יחיאל מיכל בן
רפאל פייוועל שניאור ז"ל
נלב"ע ערב שבת קודש
י אלול תשע"ז
ת.נ.צ.ב.ה.

To Join
**THE SHABBOS TABLE
MACHSOM L'FI**
Visit: cchf.global/shabbos
or in the USA, text: **shabbos to 313131**

לעילוי נשמת
מרת אסתר בת
ר' אהרן מיכלי ע"ה